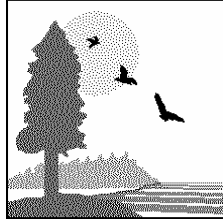


CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

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July 21, 2005

Monterey Accelerated Research System Cabled Observatory
California State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 2004051138
CSLC EIR No. 731; W30156

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

This document is the finalizing addendum to the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for the Monterey Accelerated Research System (MARS) Cabled Observatory (Proposed Project). This Final EIR/EIS has been prepared by the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15000 et seq.) and by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code (USC) section 4321 et seq. and 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 1502 et seq.). The *Guidelines* stipulate that an EIR must be prepared for any project that may have a significant impact on the environment. The MARS Cabled Observatory is a "project" as defined by the *Guidelines*. Upon preliminary review, the CSLC and the MBNMS determined that the Proposed Project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and, therefore, an EIR/EIS was required.

This document, together with the Draft EIR (SCH#20040151138) circulated for public review and comment in March/April 2005, constitute the Final EIR/EIS for the Proposed Project. The Final EIR/EIS will be used by the CSLC as part of its consideration/action process, including incorporation of mitigation measures for project implementation. A Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) is incorporated in Section 6 of the Draft EIR/EIS, and revisions are presented in Section 4 of this document.

This Final EIR/EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project and two alternative landing sites for the cable as well as the No Project/Action Alternative. The following is a brief summary of the Proposed Project. Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (Applicant and operator of the cable) proposes to install the MARS cabled observatory, which will serve as the engineering test bed for future cabled observatories. MARS will be located in one science node on 51 kilometers (km) of submarine cable. The cable route extends from Moss Landing (Monterey Bay, California) towards the northwest, to the north of the Monterey Canyon, and along the continental margin to the southeastern part of the Smooth Ridge. The Applicant proposes to bury the cable along most of the route to a depth of one meter, where feasible, using a hydraulically operated plow that

is towed by a cable installation vessel. The Applicant anticipates the cable would operate for a minimum of 25 years.

The Final EIR/EIS is available for public inspection at:

CSLC, Attn: Michelle Brown Or Steve Jenkins 100 Howe Ave., Ste 100-S Sacramento, CA 95825 (916) 574-1783 or (916) 574-1814	MBNMS, Attn: Deirdre Hall 299 Foam Street Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 647-4207
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The Final EIR/EIS was provided to the California State Clearinghouse; federal, State and local agencies; elected officials; newspapers; and other interested parties who provided scoping comments, commented on the Draft EIR/EIS, or wrote to the CSLC asking to receive a copy of the document.

Limited numbers of copies of the Final EIR/EIS are also available from Michelle Brown, CSLC, at the address above. The Final EIR/EIS is also available for viewing on the CSLC web site at <http://www.slc.ca.gov>.

The CSLC will meet to consider certification of the Final EIR/EIS and to take action on the Proposed Project at a public meeting on Monday, August 8, 2005, at 10 a.m., in the Council Chambers, El Segundo City Hall, 350 Main Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. If you have any questions regarding the CSLC meeting, or wish to testify at the meeting, please contact Steve Jenkins at (916) 574-1814 or Kim Lunetta at (916) 574-1800.

Paul D. Thayer
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission